

men and women. I urge all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities and programs designed to promote employment opportunities for older workers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4488

February 16, 1977

Save Your Vision Week, 1977

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Over the past half-century, we have made remarkable progress in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of eye problems. Methods are available today that can restore vision or sharply reduce the risk of blindness that were unknown not long ago. Research conducted and supported by the National Eye Institute and many private organizations offers very real hope for finding ways to treat eye problems that are now beyond the reach of prevention or cure.

Despite our advances, millions of Americans fail to take advantage of the sophisticated vision care services available to them. Many older Americans accept poor vision as part of growing old. Millions of middle-aged Americans regard admitting a need for vision care as admitting to a loss of youth. Young people often foolishly believe their good vision will remain without care. Children are sometimes assumed to have no vision problems because they can read an eye chart when in fact they may be unable to see the printed page.

To remind all Americans of the importance of good vision and of ways to protect it, the Congress, by joint resolution approved December 30, 1963 (77 Stat. 629, 36 U.S.C. 169a), has requested the President to proclaim the first week in March of each year as Save Your Vision Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning March 6, 1977 as Save Your Vision Week. I urge all Americans to mark this observance by learning how to take care of their eyes and availing themselves of professional eye care services. I call upon the vision care professions, the communications media, educators, and all public and private organizations which support sight conservation and vision research to join in activities to improve and protect the vision of all Americans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4489

February 25, 1977

Red Cross Month, 1977

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For 96 years, the American Red Cross has symbolized the best in our society. Its hundreds of thousands of volunteers have generously given of themselves to provide a wide range of important, necessary services.

Many Americans think of the Red Cross in connection with disaster relief. It is right that they should. Last year the Red Cross responded more than 32,000 times—once every sixteen minutes, on the average—to disaster situations in our country, coping with the emergency needs of victims and doing those things that a good neighbor does in time of trouble.

But the Red Cross does much more. Through its network of blood centers and with the help of voluntary donors, the Red Cross meets over half the country's needs for blood—an essential resource for healing the sick and injured. The men and women of our armed services depend on the Red Cross for emergency contact with their loved ones, for counseling, and for financial assistance. And the Red Cross provides trusted, reliable programs to educate Americans in first aid, home nursing, and water safety.

Traditionally, March is Red Cross Month. During this period I hope all Americans will reflect on the selflessness that has led so many of our neighbors to serve the Red Cross—and their fellow Americans—with their time, their energy, and their love. We can follow their example by supporting our local Red Cross chapter.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America and Honorary Chairman of the American National Red Cross, do hereby designate March, 1977, as Red Cross Month. I urge all Americans to give generous support to the work of their local Red Cross chapters.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

JIMMY CARTER